

CMER Meeting February 28, 2006

Attendees

Nancy Sturhan- DNR
Doug Martin- Martin Environmental
Dave Schuett-Hames- NWIFC
Dawn Hitchens- DNR
Terry Jackson- WDFW
Tim McBride- Hancock
Steve McConnell- NWIFC
Brian Fransen- WEYCO
Ken Risenhoover- Port Blackley
Wayne Vinyard- Hancock
Jim McCracken- Longview Fibre
Pete Heide- WFPA
Tom Robinson- Wash. Association of Counties
Dawn Pucci- Suquamish Tribe
Todd Baldwin- Kalispel Tribe
Pete Peterson- UCUT
Chris Mendoza- ARC
Jenelle Black- NWIFC
Allen Pleus- NWIFC
John Heimburg- NWIFC
Mark Mobbs- NWIFC
Bill Ehinger- WDOE
Laura Vaugeois- DNR

Ground Rules Discussion- Nancy Sturhan

Discussion concerning: Pursue win-win solutions and avoid hidden agendas

Policy Report- Nancy Sturhan

Reported to policy on wetlands and budget
Jed Herman shared schedule for upcoming rule development- PIP and DFC
Need SAGs to provide the 6 question document for projects that start-up in FY 2007.
Send them to Doug by March 10th. It should be a brief, 1 page document
Policy met about water typing- Policy concluded that ISAG had completed their task and no further work was needed on water typing

Independent Scientific Peer Review- Doug and Nancy

Nancy and Doug met with Dan Voigt to discuss ISPR contract
One issue was discussed was the performance of the associate editors, who are only compiling comments, not synthesizing them. Iterative interactive reviews work better but it is hard to find people who are interested because of greater time commitment. If the associate editor is working well, they should perform a similar function. They should ask more questions of the SAG or project managers, increase the dialog. They are having a

lot of problems finding reviewers. Doug is filling in for the AMPA in facilitating the ISRP process.

Status of filling the AMPA position- Nancy

Lenny is still discussion the position with the CMER stakeholders

CMER Conference- Doug

Date is set for April 7th. It will be held in the Auditorium in OBII (next to the NRB). Need a list of speakers and topics from the SAGs. These would be 20 minute talks. Can be completed or ongoing projects. Names and titles should be sent to Doug by March 17th. Abstracts are due by March 31. CMER projects will be given the highest priority, but may include affiliated projects if time is available.

Project Status Report- Nancy

Will go over the CMER project status tracking sheet at the next meeting.

CMER work plan- Nancy

Work plan is re-organized this year by rule groups. Budget sheet is also re-organized in the same format as the work plan. These products will be presented at the Policy budget retreat next month. Nancy will ask the Policy Group to focus on the strategy for each rule group. Laura would like to submit some changes to the UPSAG text, to refer to public resources, rather than aquatic resources. Submit comments by March 10, so it can be sent out to CMER and be approved at the March 28th CMER meeting.

Budget- Nancy

Change in federal funds in FY 2007, number is cut to \$1,749,000. Total at bottom does not include unrated projects, particularly the Type N Experimental Incompetent Lithology. Budget is now projected to go into the red in FY 2009. There may be some specific projects that come up in the implementation plan for the HCP. This could shift CMER priorities. Terry Jackson suggested moving the Bull Trout Overlay Temperature Program and its projects into the Type F Riparian Prescriptions Rule Group. Doug wasn't sure this was a good idea. Had a lot of discussion about the new format. SAGs need to check the numbers and make sure they reflect what they submitted. CMER approved submitting the budget to policy with some minor formatting changes.

SAG Requests

SAGE Eastside Type F Riparian Assessment Project- Jenelle Black

Request 1- To approve action plan in response to ISRP review comments. Jenelle Black- Went over spreadsheet with comments and response and asked for approval to proceed. After discussion, the response action plan was approved.

Request 2- Amend budget for MBG to add \$13,148. Jenelle Black- This would allow them to do work required in the response action plan to respond to the ISRP comments. Approved by CMER. This will come from the money from the site selection budget for the project.

UPSAG- Request for Technical Editor- Laura Vaugeois.

Requests approval of \$20,000, \$10,000 in FY 06 from the project development fund and \$10,000 FY 07 under a line item for the project. This would be used for a contract with a technical editor to help with study design and field protocols for the Mass Wasting Prescription-Scale Monitoring Study. Doug and Allen suggested changing editor to “technical consultant”. Approved by CMER.

ISAG-Request CMER review and comment on the ABR Draft Report. Brian Fransen

ISAG is requesting CMER review for the Seasonal Variability in the Upper Limit of fish Distribution in Eastern Washington and asked for CMER reviewers. Volunteer CMER reviewers included Doug Martin, Bill Ehinger and Pete Peterson.

RSAG- Request to approve riparian method test proposal. Chris Mendoza.

RSAG requests \$24,000 for a project to test and compare riparian sampling methodologies. Doug Martin raised a concern that the budget did not include funds to pay the cost of bringing experts in to the workshop to review and comment on the project. CMER approved budget request as submitted from the project development fund and asked RSAG to report back in April on need for additional funds for the cost of the work shop.

SAG Issues

LWAG- FYI concerning change in schedule for RMZ resample study. Jim McCracken. Asking for contract extension on contract with LGL until June 1 of 2007 to provide time to address ISRP comments and finish analysis.

Statewide random site selection process. Jenelle Black- EPA lab in Corvallis is conducting a statewide draw of monitoring sites on streams in Washington State using a random, distributed procedure as per EMAPs. They are using the DNR hydro layer. Will include both Type F and N streams. Sites are located at 1 km intervals. Jenelle will be a keeper of the monitoring site locations.

Policy Items- Nancy

No specific items were identified for Doug and Nancy to take to the Policy Committee Meeting beyond the approved SAG requests-

Science Topic

No science topic was identified.